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#63 NLSD

US SPENT FUEL TEAM

TO: CHERIE FITZGERALD, US DOE NN-42
202 586 8525. FAX 202 586 2323
FROM: WINSTON LITTLE, DOE ONSITE MONITOR
850 2 381 4423, FAX 850 2 381 2473
DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1995

I informed engineer Li that we would provide four 350,000 BTU/hr kerosene heaters; the delivery date was not specified.

I discussed the proposed new sludge removal system with engineer Li. He was favorably impressed with the general design, but absolutely ruled out the use of the equipment pit (or, presumably, any other area in the spent fuel building) for placement of the two settling tanks. His reasons were:

1) No drainage system,
2) No washing water,
3) Higher radiation for building occupants, and
4) Unacceptable accommodations for spills and accidents.

However, he did come back with a counter-proposal: Why not place the two settling tanks in the pool (or possibly on a stand over the pool)? Space is certainly tight, but he suggested that

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FROM: WINSTON LITTLE, DOE ONSITE MONITOR
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DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1995

Engineer Li began the morning meeting by informing us that the purification line was stopped at 7:30 am due to erratic behavior of the flow controller. When DPRK drained the air compressor this morning, the drain plug apparently did not properly reseal, resulting in a loss of pressure. John and Al quickly solved the problem by using the drain plug from one of the spare compressors. However, when we restarted the pump, we found that flow through Chiller B was blocked--apparently frozen.

John and Al put a plug (3/8 inch stainless steel) on the drain line in Chiller A that failed yesterday, and, at about 11:00 am, restarted the purification line with flow through Chiller A. John and Al recommend that a new plastic drain plug be ordered since this provides pressure release in the event of freezing.

In the early afternoon, the blockage in Chiller B suddenly cleared--apparently confirming our assumption of a frozen line. Flow through Chiller B was re-established. We instructed DPRK to leave all chillers off until further notice. The water is already cold (42 F), and we have encountered two freezing problems in the last two days. System status: flow at set point of 55 gpm, all filter units in except pre-filter Bank B and the cesium unit.

George planned to install a cable from NAC's distribution panel, located in the spent fuel pool room, to a distribution panel in the office. The available cable was too short and too big (OD-1"); he needs a 200 foot cable capable of carrying 30 amps at 110 volts.

John and Al spent the last few hours of the afternoon calibrating the NaI counter system. It is planned that an accurate cesium concentration will be available in a few days.

At our request, Engineer Li checked on the status of visas. He was told that the spent fuel team is being granted all visas without delay, and that visas for Crim, Von Neida, and Flournoy will be available on schedule. He also promised to check again.

We spent about 2 hours in the afternoon discussing the proposed new sludge system with engineer Li. In my view, he offered sound and constructive advice. His major points are listed on the next page.